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Jane E. Norton
Lieutenant Governor

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NORTON ANNOUNCES COLORADO COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

(DENVER) – Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton today announced the selection of Mr. Ernest House, Jr. as the new Executive Secretary for the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs.

“Ernest has a great passion to work towards the betterment of all Indian People,” said Norton. “His great-grandfather, Chief Jack House, was the last hereditary chief of the Ute Mountain Ute tribe and was instrumental in providing effective leadership on behalf of the tribe’s causes. I am confident that Ernest will carry on in this strong tradition and do an outstanding job.”

House served as an aid in the CCIA office for the past two years. He has worked to strengthen government-to-government relationships with the tribes and was an instrumental part of the first ever Native American Heritage Month Celebration in Colorado. House has been a leader in organizing educational events to help legislators and others understand the rich culture of the Native American communities, and has worked to protect ancestral remains. He is also a member of the North American Indigenous Games Bid Committee.

As the Executive Secretary, House will be responsible for carrying out the day-to-day responsibilities of the Commission and serving as an ex-officio member of the Commission. He will oversee the communications between the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute tribes and other Native American organizations, state agencies and affiliated groups and will continue to be a strong advocate in working to bring even greater awareness and understanding to Colorado citizens about Native American concerns.

“Since first learning of the Commission, it has been my goal to reach the position of executive secretary,” said House. “I am honored to be following in the tradition of my family and look forward to working with the tribes and others in serving the needs of the Native American community.”

Lt. Governor Norton serves as the statutorily named chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs.

Jane Norton was sworn in as Colorado’s 46th Lieutenant Governor on January 13, 2003. Her responsibilities include serving as the chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; acting as point person for the Owens Administration on health insurance reform; strengthening families by promoting adoption, early childhood care and education efforts/initiatives, mentoring and volunteerism; and serving as Colorado’s delegate to the Aerospace States Association and co-chair of the Colorado Space Coalition.

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